

(4) supports, as part of a joint vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, India's continued defense modernization, including its diversification away from countries that fail to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other nations;

(5) applauds the Government of India for increasing its development efforts in Arunachal Pradesh, including for improving border infrastructure, connectivity, and energy security, including renewable energy production;

(6) commits to deepening United States assistance to the region, including through the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development using funding mechanisms such as the Countering PRC Influence Fund;

(7) encourages like-minded international partners and donors to likewise bolster their assistance efforts to Arunachal Pradesh;

(8) supports further strengthening the United States-India bilateral partnership, including through enhanced defense interoperability and information-sharing especially for early warning systems, the United States-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology, further economic cooperation, and our broad and long-standing people-to-people ties; and

(9) promotes enhancing our multilateral cooperation with India through the Quad, the East Asia Summit alongside our partners in the Association for Southeast Asian Nations, and other international fora.

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE ON FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 76

Whereas, on February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern and central Türkiye, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally, and western Syria;

Whereas this is the most powerful earthquake recorded in Türkiye since 1939;

Whereas, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake epicenter was located approximately 16 miles east of Nurdagi, in Türkiye's Gaziantep province;

Whereas the USGS has registered more than 100 aftershocks between magnitudes 4.5 and 7.5;

Whereas the reported death toll has reached 42,000, thousands more people have been reported injured, hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes, and thousands of buildings have collapsed;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimates that 23,000,000 people, including 1,400,000 children, in Türkiye and Syria have likely been affected by the earthquake and more than 4,000,000 people already rely on humanitarian assistance in the region of northwest Syria that was affected by the earthquake;

Whereas countless people in the region and across the world have lost family, friends, and loved ones to the earthquakes and will be mourning their loss;

Whereas the United States Government responded immediately to the disaster and the United States Agency for International De-

velopment (USAID) has deployed a nearly 200-member Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Türkiye, including nearly 160 urban search-and-rescue teams, to provide life-saving assistance on both sides of the Türkiye-Syria border;

Whereas USAID has committed \$85,000,000 to date for USAID's humanitarian partners to deliver urgently-needed aid for millions of people in Türkiye and Syria;

Whereas individuals, businesses, and philanthropic and humanitarian organizations across the United States and throughout the international community have responded in support of Türkiye and Syria;

Whereas humanitarian access has been constrained by road closures, infrastructural damage, and weather conditions in Türkiye; and

Whereas access to the one official crossing for cross-border aid from the United Nations from Türkiye to northern Syria was heavily damaged, further delaying humanitarian access: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Türkiye and Syria following the devastating earthquake on February 6, 2023;

(2) commends the efforts and honors the sacrifice of the men and women engaged in the humanitarian response on the ground in the affected regions of Türkiye and Syria;

(3) commends as well the international humanitarian and nongovernmental organizations engaged in this effort;

(4) urges the United States Government, in coordination with appropriate local authorities in Türkiye and internationally recognized organizations and institutions in Syria, as well as other donors, to continue to provide emergency relief and reconstruction efforts in both countries as provided in the humanitarian exemptions of the United States Treasury's Syria Sanctions program;

(5) urges the United States Government to ensure that earthquake assistance does not—

(A) violate the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of Public Law 116-92; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note);

(B) facilitate reconstruction efforts that directly benefit the Assad regime;

(C) signal or support normalization with the Assad regime; or

(D) fuel continued regime atrocities against the people of Syria;

(6) encourages efforts by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and allies to assist Türkiye by providing—

(A) search-and-rescue teams;

(B) firefighters and structural engineers;

(C) medical personnel and supplies; and

(D) technical experts;

(7) urges the international community to continue to find alternative border crossings to ensure aid gets into affected areas in Syria;

(8) calls on the United Nations Security Council, to pass a resolution to allow for additional border crossings from Türkiye into northern Syria for aid convoys; and

(9) to allow full access for humanitarian aid organizations, urges the immediate cessation of violence in northern Syria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 77—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 16, 2023, AS “NATIONAL ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY”

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 77

Whereas Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, Tlingit, was a member of the Lukaa.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of aa gala.aat (referred to in this preamble as “Elizabeth”) who fought for social equality, civil liberties, and respect for Alaska Native and Native American communities;

Whereas Elizabeth, who was born in 1911 in Petersburg, Alaska, experienced discrimination as a Tlingit woman, and dedicated her life to creating a better future for Alaska Natives;

Whereas, more than 6,000 patriotic Alaska Natives protected the United States alongside non-Native Servicemen and women during World War II, despite suffering from unjust discrimination;

Whereas, in 1941, Elizabeth and her husband, Roy Peratrovich, moved to Juneau, the capital city of Alaska, to campaign tirelessly for the passage of the anti-discrimination legislation of Ernest Gruening, the Governor of Alaska, which would later result in the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945;

Whereas, in campaigning for the passage of anti-discrimination legislation, Elizabeth persevered for several years traveling across the Alaska Territory enabling, rallying, and uniting Alaska Natives to fight for recognition that they are created equal to others and equally endowed with “unalienable Rights”;

Whereas Elizabeth was a powerful orator who envisioned unity and then spoke it into existence through community advocacy and the support of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood;

Whereas Elizabeth testified strongly before the Alaska Territorial legislature vote on the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, passionately asking the legislature, “Have you eliminated larceny or murder by passing a law against it? No law will eliminate crimes but, at least you as legislators, can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination.”;

Whereas the Alaska Territorial Legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 on February 16, 1945, which was the first anti-discrimination law enacted in the history of the United States;

Whereas Elizabeth dedicated the rest of her life to create a better Alaska for future generations;

Whereas Elizabeth tragically died of cancer in 1958, but her legacy has not been forgotten;

Whereas, beginning in 1988, the State of Alaska has recognized February 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day; and

Whereas, in 2020, the United States Mint released the Elizabeth Peratrovich \$1 coin to commemorate the significant impact that Elizabeth had on advancing equality under the law in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 16, 2023, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day by remembering the work of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich and other civil rights leaders; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States and Members of Congress to commemorate the life and civil rights advocacy of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich by continuing the important work of ensuring equality for Alaska Natives and Native Americans.